

# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

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## House Homeland Committee Evaluates Bioterrorism Response, Surveillance Capabilities

*Committee Examines CDC Capabilities, Strategic National Stockpile*

**WASHINGTON, DC (Tuesday, June 21, 2005)**—Members of the House Committee on Homeland Security examined critical aspects of the Nation's bioterrorism preparedness capabilities during yesterday's tour of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, GA.

Homeland Security Subcommittee Chairmen John Linder (R-GA), Dan Lungren (R-CA), and Mike Rogers (R-AL), Ranking Member James Langevin (D-RI), and Delegate Donna Christensen (D-VI) met with CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding, M.D., to review national bio-surveillance activities and response capabilities, including the Strategic National Stockpile.

"Though additional emphasis should be placed on 'who' would attack us, rather than 'how' they will attack us, we cannot ignore the dangers posed by the malicious use of biological pathogens," said Rep. Linder, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack. "I am pleased to see the good work conducted by the CDC on that front of America's war on terrorism."

Members were briefed on biological weapons that could be used in a terrorist attack, including aerosolized anthrax and botulinum toxin which could be used to contaminate the food supply. Members addressed the need to include the CDC and the Strategic National Stockpile as critical national assets and examined ways to shield them from terrorist threats.

"The CDC is a critical component to our bioterror preparedness and response efforts," said Rep. Langevin, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack. "But while public health preparedness has come a long way in the last four years, we can clearly do more to prevent or defend against the

greatest bioterror risks. Congress must continue to partner with the CDC to determine where additional support and resources are needed.”

Dr. Gerberding briefed Members on the production and development of vaccines, and the importance of robust research and development in the war against terrorism.

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(EDITOR’S NOTE: Photos of the visit are available at <http://homeland.house.gov>.)